

**AN ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
AT CULEBRA CREEK PARK,
SAN ANTONIO,
BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**
(draft)



Joel B. Butler and Maggie L. McClain

Ecological Communications Corporation



Texas Antiquities Permit 5590

April 2010

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by

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Texas Antiquities Permit 5590

Prepared for

Poznecki-Camarillo, Inc.

and

The City of San Antonio

by

Ecological Communications Corporation

Austin, Texas



April 2010

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Cover photograph: Culebra Creek in the park.

ABSTRACT

The City of San Antonio proposes improvements at Culebra Creek Park, located on Westwood Loop near the intersection of Loop 1604 and Culebra Road in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The total project area is approximately 30 acres and is located entirely within property owned by the City of San Antonio. The project will entail installation of approximately 4,700 feet (ft) of paved trails and supporting facilities within the eastern portion of Culebra Creek Park. In compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas, Ecological Communications Corporation (EComm) conducted an intensive archeological survey of areas within 150 feet of the proposed improvements. The survey was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit 5590 and included visual inspection, backhoe trenching, and shovel testing. One new archeological site was recorded in the survey. Site 41BX1863 is defined as a surface scatter of non-diagnostic lithic artifacts with little potential for further research. Field records from this project will be curated at EComm; site records will be temporarily held at EComm and permanently curated at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas. This report documents the results of the investigations and recommends that no additional archeological work is warranted for the proposed project to proceed.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In April 2010, Ecological Communications Corporation (EComm) conducted an archeological survey in advance of improvements to Culebra Creek Park in San Antonio, western Bexar County, Texas. Culebra Creek Park is located on the Culebra Hill and Helotes, Texas 1:24000 USGS topographic sheets, on the west side of San Antonio (Figure 1). The survey was undertaken for the City of San Antonio, which plans to create recreational trails and associated facilities throughout the park. As the project is sponsored by the City of San Antonio, it is subject to the Antiquities Code of Texas.

The project will entail installation of approximately 4,700 feet (ft) of paved trails within the eastern portion of Culebra Creek Park, which lies 1,500 ft northwest of the intersection of Loop 1604 and Culebra Road (Figure 2). The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this project is defined as areas inside the park within 150 ft of the proposed trails and within the proposed

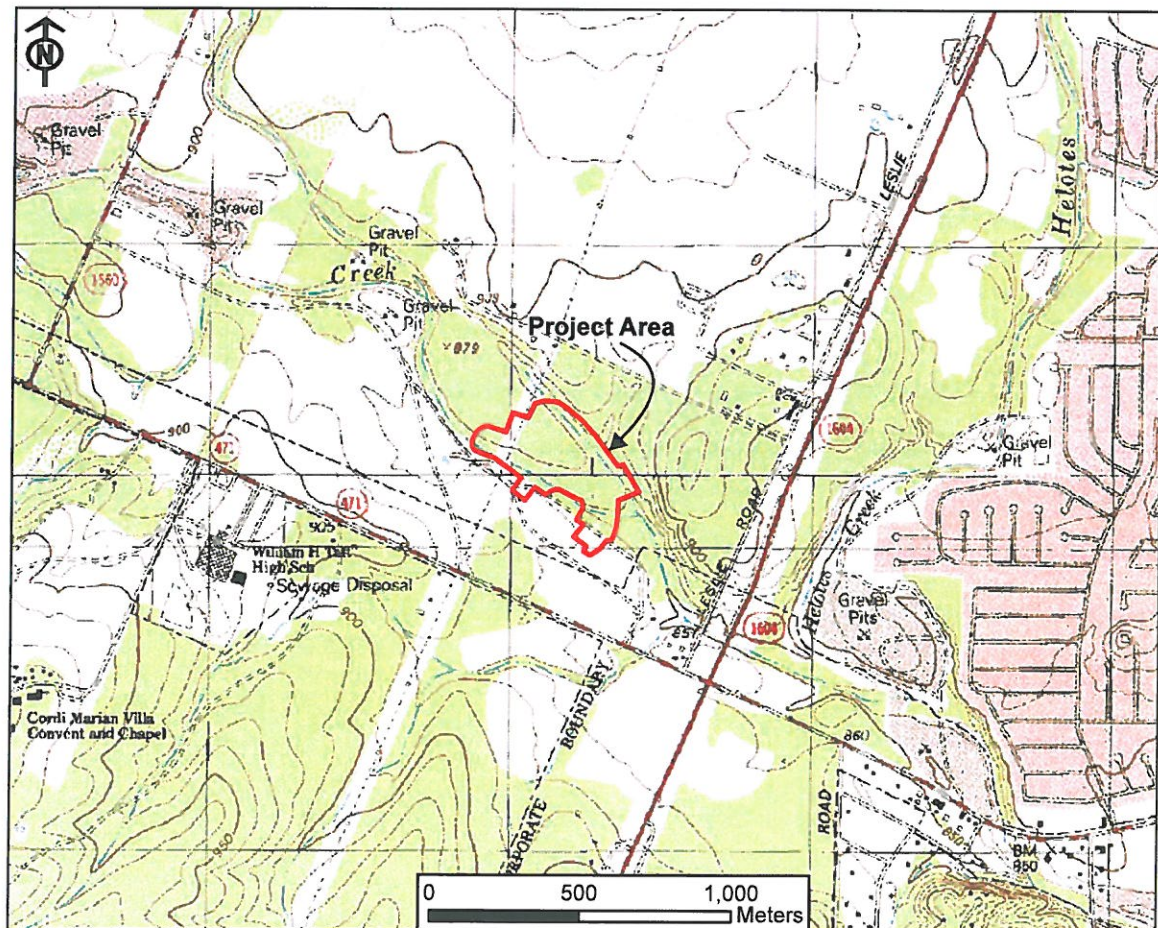


Figure 1. Project location on the Culebra Hill and Helotes USGS topographic quadrangle.

support structures and the construction staging area. The total area for the proposed APE encompasses approximately 30 acres. Depth of disturbance throughout most of the APE will be less than 1 meter (m) with the exception of barricade posts, which will be set at a depth of 1.5 m. Paved paths throughout the park will vary from 8 to 10 ft in width with the depth of disturbance being less than 1 ft. The proposed staging area for construction is located within a 150-ft-wide power line easement through the western portion of the park, where land has been previously cleared and trenched for utilities.

The proposed improvements will be built using municipal funds; hence the project falls under the provisions of the Antiquities Code of Texas. The object of the archeological survey was to identify, document, and assess archeological resources that could be impacted by the proposed improvements. The survey consisted of a 100 percent pedestrian inspection of the APE supplemented by three backhoe trenches and 21 shovel tests. Subsurface testing documented generally deep gravels across the majority of the project area. In the southeastern portion of the project area, archeologists documented shallow and/or exposed Austin Chalk bedrock.

All work was conducted in compliance with 36 CFR 800 and 13 TAC 26, which pertain to the guidelines for implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas. Survey standards followed guidelines established by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA). Work was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit 5590.

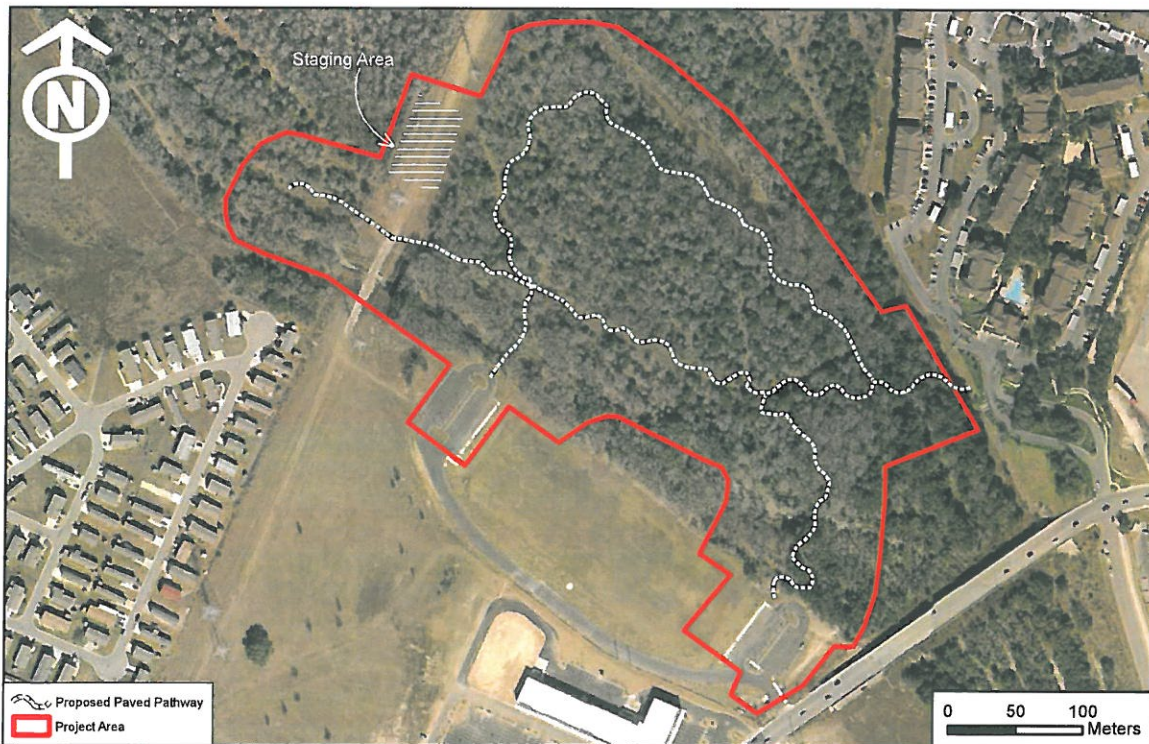


Figure 2. Proposed trails to be installed in Culebra Creek Park.

Weather conditions during the investigation were ideal, with warm temperatures and mostly clear skies, though recent flooding had covered the entire project area three days prior to fieldwork. Joel B. Butler functioned as Principal Investigator; Butler and Maggie McClain conducted field investigations and wrote the report. Diamond Back Construction Company provided backhoe assistance. Remaining sections of this report detail the environmental and cultural background of the project area, field methods used, results of investigations, and conclusions. No cultural material was collected; all field records generated during this project will be housed at EComm in Austin, Texas, and site records will be permanently curated at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL).

CHAPTER 2

PROJECT BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND

The project area lies within the Blackland Belt of the Interior Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic province of Texas. This area is characterized by rolling to level topography with soils that include clay, loam, sand, and gravel. According to Wermund (2009), this underlying geology consists of uncemented sandy ridges intermixed with shale. The *Geologic Atlas of Texas* indicates that geology is Upper Cretaceous-aged Austin Chalk and Quaternary-aged alluvial terrace deposits.

The project area elevation is approximately 870–885 ft above mean sea level. An examination of USDA soil maps for Bexar County (Taylor et al. 1991) and an analysis of the APE using the USDA online Soil Survey reveals that soils within the APE consist of Patrick soils (75%) and Tinn and Frio soils (25%). Patrick soils are associated with paleoterraces and consist of clay soils to depths of 42 centimeters, underlain by gravelly sand extending below two meters. Tinn and Frio soils are associated with floodplains and consist of clays exceeding two meters in depth. Both soil types have potential for moderate to deeply buried intact archeological deposits.

In terms of vegetation and wildlife habitat, the project lies within the South Texas Plains as described by Gould et al. (1960). Vegetation physiognomy is a patchwork of native and non-native grasses interspersed with woody shrubs, chaparral brush, and woods. Low to medium-tall, broad-leaved deciduous and evergreen shrubs can be scattered singly, in groves or thickets, or as bands (Telfair 1999) along waterways. Land-use changes have prompted a decline in many of the dominant native prairie grasses and brush species.

The project area is located within a lowland/riparian zone and contains vegetation dominated by woody shrubs, mature trees, and some prairie grasses. Native plant species noted during the field evaluation included mesquite, live oak, hackberry, Texas persimmon, and ashe juniper.

Indigenous wildlife in this area includes white-tailed deer, javelina, turkey, fox squirrel, jack rabbits, foxes, ring-tailed cats, skunks, opossum, bobcats, and coyotes, kestrels, merlins, pyrrhoxia, loggerhead shrikes, great-tailed grackles, red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, and burrowing owls, with seasonal migrations of various species of duck, crane, and goose, although recent urbanization has displaced many of these species.

CULTURAL BACKGROUND

The project area is typically considered to be part of the South Texas Archeological Region. The region is still little understood archeologically, reflecting the paucity of systematic excavations as well as the challenging characteristics of the landscape as they pertain to site formation processes (Black 1989). Black (1989) divided the South Texas Archeological Region into five biogeographical areas based on Hester's (1981) description of prehistoric adaptation patterns in South Texas (littoral vs. inland). According to Black (1989), the five biogeographical areas of South Texas are as follows: Rio Grande Plain, Rio Grande Delta, Nueces-Guadalupe Plain, Sand Sheet, and the Coastal Bend.

The project area lies in the Nueces-Guadalupe Plain region of South Texas. Although the South Texas plains archeological region is generally considered a distinct archeological entity, much of what is known of the area is in part derived from comparisons and extrapolation with adjacent areas that have been subjected to more intensive investigation, particularly the Central Texas archeological region. Following Hester's (1995) chronology, the four prehistoric cultural periods include the Paleoindian (11,200–8,000 BP), Archaic (8,000–1,200 BP), Late Prehistoric (1,200–400 BP), and Protohistoric (400–300 BP). Similar to the cultural chronology provided by the Central Texas region, these divisions are not absolute, but represent contrived temporal categories based on perceived cultural expressions reflected in lithic technology, subsistence practices, mortuary behavior, and other sorts of material remains. These material expressions further reflect broader patterns in the environment and human behavior.

The most commonly recorded sites in South Texas are open occupation sites. In some cases, meaningful excavation of these sites has proven to be a challenge to archeologists (Hester 1995). This vexing situation stems from the exclusively horizontal patterning of many open occupation sites in the region. These sites tend to exist as laterally extensive occupation and use area where temporally separated components occur on a single surface without overlapping (Hester 1995). Other open occupation sites, especially in upland settings, occur on stable ancient surfaces with very shallow or deflated cultural deposits that are sometimes impossible to conclusively attribute to a particular time period. Comparatively few deeply stratified occupation sites have been excavated in South Texas. Black (1989) posits that this is the result of both settlement patterning and depositional context. Common site types in South Texas include lithic procurement and reduction sites, rock shelters, artifact caches, and burials.

Paleoindian Period

The Paleoindian stage (11,200–8000 BP) was initially characterized throughout Texas by nomadic big-game hunters who heavily relied on megafauna of the Pleistocene (e.g., mammoth, mastodon, bison, camel, and horse) for subsistence. However, recent studies have revised this notion. A more accurate description of this stage is presented by Bousman et al. (1990:22): "... this period may have seen use by small, mobile bands of nonspecialized hunters and gathers occasionally utilizing megafauna perhaps only as the opportunity arose." Thus, according to

Bousman et al. (1990), Paleoindians used a wider variety of resources than previously thought. Evidence of this broader resource subsistence is based on the works of Johnson (1977), Collins (1998:1505–1506), and Collins and Brown (2000). Johnson (1977) reviewed reports on numerous Paleoindian sites that indicated a range of small and medium fauna were harvested in addition to big game. Investigations at the Wilison-Leonard site (41WM235), the Gault site (41BL323), and Lubbock Lake (41LU1) provide evidence of small and medium faunal remains (i.e., turtle, rabbit, squirrel, snakes, gopher, and deer) associated with megafaunal remains (i.e., bison and mammoth) (Collins 1998:1505–1506). Clovis and Folsom points are the primary diagnostic artifacts associated with this stage (Collins 1995; Turner and Hester 1999).

Archaic Period

The Archaic Period (8000–1200 BP) spans nearly 7,000 years of prehistory. In Texas, the primary cultural marker of this period is the burned rock midden (Collins 2004:119). These piles of burned limestone, sandstone, and other lithic debris represent the remains of multiple ovens that were used, reused, and discarded over time. Their appearance signifies a shift from a big-game hunting subsistence strategy to a less mobile, generalized subsistence strategy. Projectile points also changed; lanceolate-shaped points gave way to dart points that were stemmed and barbed (Black 1989). During the Archaic period the climate changed from wet and mild conditions seen in the Paleoindian stage to warmer and drier conditions. Researchers believe that the changes in climate influenced prehistoric subsistence strategies (Story 1985:38–39; Weir 1976).

The Archaic period is typically divided into three sub-stages: early, middle and late. The Early Archaic stage is still relatively obscure in the archeological record. The majority of Early Archaic sites are distributed around the Edwards Plateau along the eastern and southern margins, suggesting concentrations near reliable water sources with a variety of food resources. These sites are generally described as small with highly diverse tool assemblages. Cultural material associated with Early Archaic sites are points (specifically Angostura, Early Split Stem, and Martindale-Uvalde; Collins 2004), Clear Fork and Guadalupe bifaces, manos, hammerstones, burins, metates, circular scrapers, and various biface styles (Osburn et al. 2007), suggesting specialized tool usage. Also, burials have been found associated with this stage, although very few (Prewitt 1981; Story 1985).

During the Middle Archaic, the climate became very warm and dry. The number and size of burned rock middens from this period increases dramatically, leading many archeologists to posit not only a population increase but also intensification in the types of food processing typically done in earth ovens. Types of project points that frequently occur on Middle Archaic sites are Bulverde, Langtry, and Kinney dart points (Hall et al. 1986). Other materials found among Middle Archaic assemblages are an increase of wooden and bone implements, plant processing implements, and the intensive use of large burned rock features. Burials during this stage become more frequent than in the previous stage.

During the Late Archaic climatic conditions once again became more mesic. Cultural traditions observed in the Middle Archaic carry over in to the Late Archaic. There is an intensification

of the Middle Archaic traditions as well as newly developed ones. Trade is observed during this period with the exchanging of material from different localities. Coastal materials such as shells used as ornaments have been reported to have been exchanged for both finished tools and raw material (Story 1985). Rock ovens and hearths were continuously used as a means to prepare food, and bison once again became available. Ritualized mortuary practice became more common during the Late Archaic with interments becoming quite elaborate in terms of associated burial furniture. Large cemeteries were established along drainages suggesting the importance of the location, and perhaps territorial ties by groups to these localities (Story 1985). Location of these cemeteries “are believed to be the result of the same cultural group using a place on the landscape to reaffirm their rights of descent and control/access to critical resources” (Osburn 2007:15; Taylor 1998; Taylor et al. 1995:627–631).

Late Prehistoric Period

Of the prehistoric stages, the Late Prehistoric stage (1200–400 BP) is the best defined, marked by the presence of the bow and arrow and by the production of small arrow points (Hester 1981:122). The emergence of agriculture and ceramics also occurred in the Late Prehistoric. While incipient agricultural and ceramic use is evident in South Texas most researchers believe that these technologies diffused into South Texas from other regions (Bousman et al. 1990). Much of the ample evidence for late prehistoric lifeways indicate that people exploited a wide range of animal and plant resources for their diets. Food processing techniques relied heavily on manos, metates, and earth ovens for cooking. Diagnostic artifacts of this time period include Scallorn, Edwards and Perdiz arrow points. Sites tend to be more closely clustered around creeks, rather than dispersed along other landforms, suggesting intensifying nucleation around reliable natural resources.

Protohistoric and Historic Period

The Protohistoric (ca. AD 1528–1700) is marked by the venture into South and Southeast Texas by Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca beginning in 1528. Archeological sites dated to this substage contain a mix of both European (e.g., metal and glass arrow points, trade beads, and wheel-made or glazed ceramics) and traditional Native American artifacts (e.g., manufactured stone tools; Hester 1995). The establishment of the first Spanish missions and the expansion of the Spanish Colonial Empire mark the Historic substage (ca. 1700–present). Most of our knowledge of this substage is through the written records of early Spanish missionaries.

In 1718, the Spanish military and Roman Catholic Franciscan missionaries established the Presidio San Antonio de Bexar and the Mission Antonio de Valero on San Pedro Creek. The following year a second mission was established, the Mission San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo, and in 1731 three additional missions were founded, forming a chain running along the San Antonio River. Almost immediately the missions began attracting Native American groups seeking shelter and stability from raiding Apaches. The city of San Antonio grew out of these early Spanish settlements, becoming the largest and most important settlement in Spain’s northern territory, incorporating not just Spanish colonists, but indigenous groups as well.

San Antonio de B  xar became the capital of Spanish Texas in 1773. The population of roughly 2,000 included Native Americans, Europeans, mestizos, and a few black slaves. By 1795, all of the missions were at least partially secularized, and San Antonio de Valero Mission (later, the Alamo) became a military barracks (Fehrenbach 2010).

During the Texas Revolution, San Antonio witnessed several major battles, including the Siege of Bexar and the famous Battle of the Alamo. Population dwindled during the Republic of Texas years (1836–1845), largely due to repeated attacks from Mexico. Following the Republic’s annexation by the United States, San Antonio’s population and economy soared as the city became a way station in westward expansion (Fehrenbach 2010).

Following the Civil War, San Antonio became a major player in the cattle industry as railroads made it the shipping center of South Texas. Today, with a population approaching 1.4 million, San Antonio remains one of the most important American cities with education, military, medical, and increasingly tourism contributing to the local economy (Fehrenbach 2010).

PREVIOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

The THC’s online Texas Archeological Sites Atlas was consulted for known sites within or near the APE and previous archeological work conducted in the project area. While no previously recorded archeological sites are located within the project area, five archeological sites are located within one kilometer.

Site 41BX1422 was recorded by the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) in 1999. Located 50 m north of the APE, it was documented as an open campsite containing two burned rock middens of Late Archaic, Late Prehistoric, and Neo-American ages (Figuer  a 2000a).

Site 41BX1423 is located 185 m east of the APE. This site consisted of a 10 x 10-m burned rock midden of undifferentiated Archaic and Late Prehistoric age. First recorded by CAR in 1999 (Figuer  a 2000b), a 2007 site revisit by Geo-Marine, Inc. (GMI), found that the site had been completely destroyed by construction of the Walmart shopping center (Osburn 2007a).

Site 41BX1424, also initially documented by CAR in 2000, is located 300 m east of the project area and was recorded as a surface scatter lithic procurement site (Figuer  a 2000c). However, the 2007 GMI revisit found the site totally destroyed by commercial construction (Osburn 2007b).

Site 41BX126 is located 490 m east of the APE within the right-of-way of Loop 1604. This site was first documented as an open campsite in 1971 by Paul and Ellen McGuff for the 1604 Survey (McGuff and McGuff 1971). As the McGuffs had recommended testing before a new lane of Loop 1604 was built, test excavations were conducted by archeologists from the Texas Department of Transportation in 1993 and 1995, and by archeologists from CAR in 1997 (Nickels et al. 2001). Although CAR recommended further investigations in their report of the 1993, 1995, and 1997 excavations, a 2007 investigation by GMI determined that the site had been completely destroyed by construction of the highway (Osburn 2007c). A

2008 investigation by CAR, however, found that the site was only partially destroyed by the construction of Loop 1604, that it had been capped with sand to prevent further damage, and that undisturbed portions still existed on private land (Ulrich 2008).

GMI recorded site 41BX1465 in 2002; the lithic quarry site is located 950 m southeast of the APE (Duke 2002). However, a revisit by GMI in 2007 found that the site was completely destroyed by construction of a church and parking lot (Osburn 2007d).

The Texas Archeological Sites Atlas shows that two previous archeological surveys have been performed within one kilometer of the APE. GMI performed a linear archeological survey in 2002 for the Texas Water Development Board that crosses the northern portion of the APE. Loop 1604 was surveyed by CAR 300 m east of the APE in 2008 for the Federal Highway Administration. GMI conducted an area survey which bordered the current project area's north and east sides. This survey revisited sites 41BX1423 and 41BX1424. No new sites were recorded.

CHAPTER 3

METHODS

Prior to field investigations, EComm archeologists conducted a review of the THC Archeological Sites Atlas, noting all previously recorded archeological sites within a one kilometer radius of the APE. In addition, USDA soil survey maps and the *Geologic Atlas of Texas* for Bexar County were consulted to assess the potential for deeply buried deposits.

All survey procedures complied with THC/CTA standard survey methods. Following the recommendations of the THC, the archeological survey consisted of visual inspection, shovel testing, and backhoe trenching in select locations. A visual inspection of the project area was conducted and observations documented through field notes and photographs.

Shovel tests were excavated at a rate of one test for every 2 acres in accordance with THC minimum standards for parcels between 11 and 100 acres. A shovel test was defined as 30 cm in diameter, excavated and recorded on standardized forms in 20-cm increments to culturally sterile soil, bedrock, or 80 centimeters below the surface (cmbs), whichever was encountered first. Soils of each 20-cm level were screened through ¼-inch hardware mesh. For each level, the texture and Munsell color of the excavated sediments were recorded together with any cultural items present.

Backhoe trenches were excavated in areas with potential for intact archeological deposits. Trenching was closely monitored, and samples of excavated soil were screened through ¼-inch hardware cloth for artifacts. Each backhoe trench was excavated to culturally sterile soils, bedrock, or the water table. Backhoe trenches were documented on standardized forms and in photographs, and profiles were drawn of each trench.

Site definitions complied with THC/CTA standards and policies. Any sites encountered were to be delineated using no fewer than six shovel tests to define the site boundaries relative to the APE. Specific site information was recorded on standardized forms and presented to TARL for inclusion in their archives and production of new site trinomials. Historical archeological sites and features were to be documented not only through field efforts, but also through archival research, if needed.

Controlled surface inventories were conducted within 20-m-diameter circular sampling units (so-called “dog-leash” [DL] units). Within each DL unit, all artifacts within 10 m of a central point were recorded. Each such unit encompassed approximately 314 m² of surface area. The data generated from these inventories were used to characterize the surface assemblage and to estimate site lithic artifact density. Notes were recorded including the type and quantity of observed artifacts.

The location of each backhoe trench, shovel test, and archeological site was recorded using a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS). Any artifacts encountered were to be recorded, photographed, and returned to their original location. No artifacts were collected during this survey. Survey records are curated at the EComm laboratory in Austin, Texas. Site forms and site photographs are to be housed temporarily at EComm and permanently curated at TARL in Austin.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS

The project area is located northeast of Loop 1604 and Culebra Road along the west side of Westwood Loop (see Figures 1 and 2). Large portions of the APE were found to be mostly vegetated with dense growth of Ashe juniper, elbow bush, vines, and weeds. Culebra Creek forms a riparian corridor within this landscape, shaded mainly by mature hackberry, mesquite, live oak, and black willows (Figure 3).

Approximately 4.5 acres of the project area (15%) were found to have been previously disturbed by parking lot and road construction, landscaping, and utilities easement-clearing and installation. However, the majority of the APE was apparently undisturbed from its natural landscape.

Three days prior to EComm's survey, extensive flooding on Culebra Creek covered the entire project area, leaving a film of buoyant flotsam to heights of 10 ft above the stream's typical channel (see Figure 3). A small bridge across Culebra Creek in the west end of the APE within a power line easement was evidently washed out in this event (Figure 4), limiting backhoe trenching to the south bank of Culebra Creek.

Twenty shovel tests were excavated throughout the APE, for an average of 1.5 tests per acre, meeting and exceeding the THC-recommended shovel test density of one test per two acres for survey areas between 11 and 100 acres (Figure 5). No artifacts were encountered in any of the shovel tests. Shovel test depths ranged from 20 to 80



Figure 3. Typical setting along Culebra Creek with recent flood debris (facing east).



Figure 4. Damaged creek crossing from recent flooding within park, facing west.



Figure 5. Location of backhoe trenches and shovel tests within Culebra Creek Park.

cmbs. Tests were halted above 80 cmbs when impenetrable gravels or precultural clay was encountered.

Three backhoe trenches were placed in areas containing deep sediments along the right bank of Culebra Creek away from known buried utilities (see Figure 5). Profiles were similar in nature with dark topsoil and colluvium to depths of 30–40 cmbs underlain by clay-adhered alluvial gravel of varying size to depths of 50–80 cmbs underlain by silty friable gravel to depths beyond that excavated in the trenches. Backhoe trenches were excavated to depths of 140–150 cmbs, roughly even with the modern stream channel of Culebra Creek. A profile of Backhoe Trench 1 is provided in Figure 6 as a representation of deposits typically encountered during testing. No cultural materials were noted in any of the backhoe trenches.

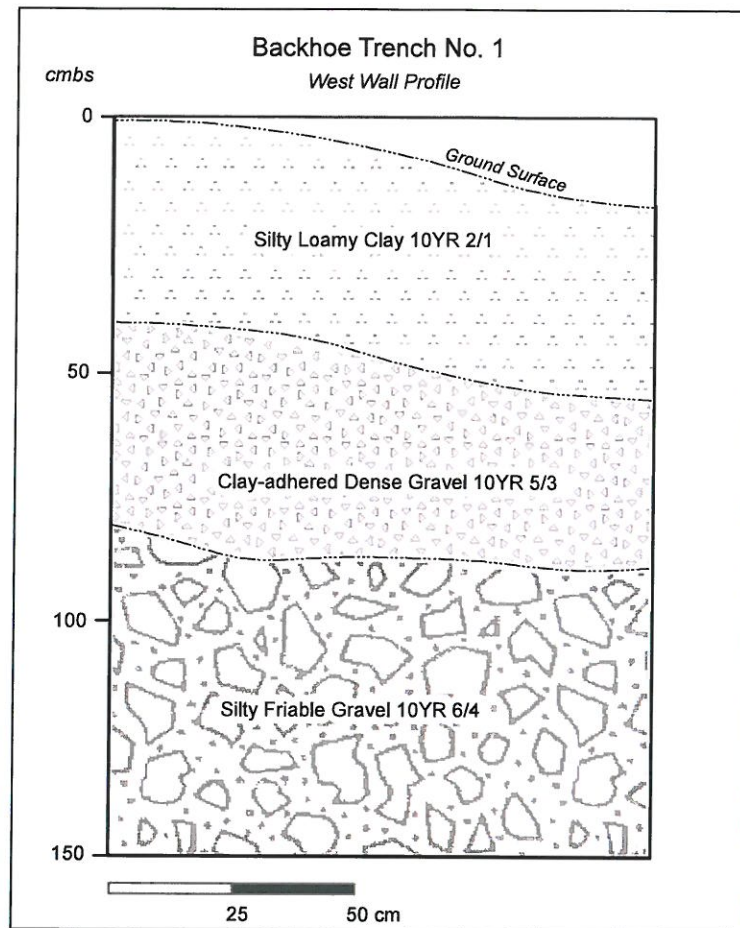


Figure 6. Profile of Backhoe Trench 1.

SITE 41BX1863

One site, 41BX1863, a 0.9-acre prehistoric lithic scatter of unknown age, was discovered along the northeastern margin of the survey area (Figure 7). TexSite forms and a locational topographic map of the site location are located in Appendix A of this report. This site consists of a sparse surface scatter of non-diagnostic chert artifacts along the top of a T1 terrace that is 1.5–2 m tall and 130 m long by 30 m wide. Shovel testing on the terrace revealed silty clay soils alternately extending to depths exceeding 80 cmbs to terminating in dense gravels at 30 cmbs. Of six shovel tests excavated within the site area, none contained cultural artifacts. Recent flooding had eroded the terrace slope in several locations, making a detailed inspection of deep deposits possible (Figure 8). In these areas, no burned rock or artifacts were noted within the alluvial gravels underlying the site. No features were noted while documenting the site.

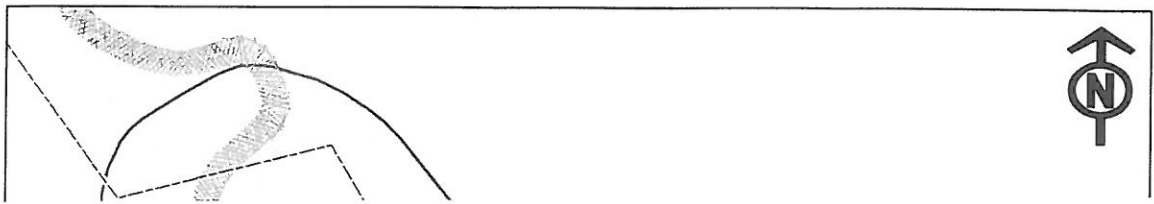


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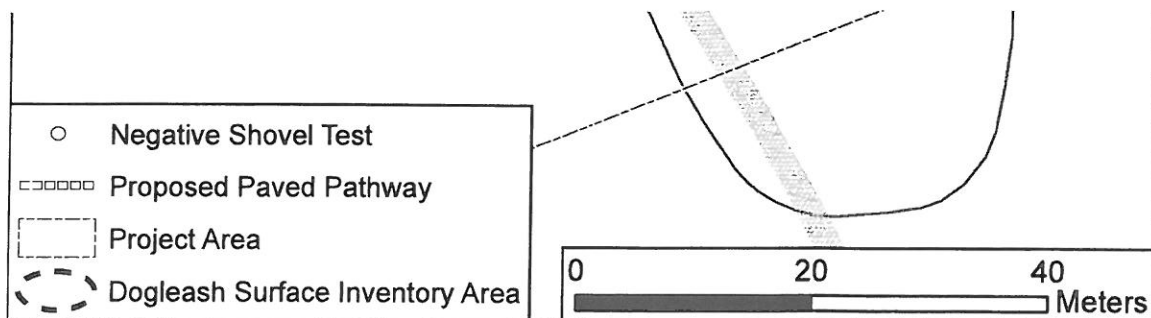


Figure 7. Site map of 41BX1863.

Two separate dogleash inventories were performed (DL-1 and DL-2) to evaluate surface artifact density at the site (see Figure 7). Eleven artifacts were observed within the two 20-m-diameter areas. Artifacts noted within the DL areas included cortical and secondary chert flakes, a chert core, and several pieces of angular chert debris, one of which displayed signs of thermal potlidding (Figure 9). The dogleash inventories revealed a low surface density of approximately one artifact per 57 m², or a projected total of fewer than 100 artifacts across the site.

Due to the low density of artifacts on the site surface, lack of subsurface deposits, and limited geographic extent of the site, it is thought that 41BX1863 may be the down-slope transported remnants of a site or sites destroyed by the construction of the Laurel Canyon Apartments, which lie directly uphill from the site (see Figure 7). As a result, it is the conclusion of EComm that little or no potential research value exists for site 41BX1863.



Figure 8. Site setting and profile of alluvial terrace deposits at site 41BX1863, facing north.



Figure 9. Surface artifacts from DL-2, 41BX1863.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Archeological investigations of proposed improvements at Culebra Creek Park on Westwood Loop in San Antonio, Texas, found one previously unrecorded archeological site (41BX1863). Investigations within the 30-acre project area consisted of 100 percent visual inspection and excavation of three backhoe trenches and 20 shovel tests. The backhoe trench results suggest that the southern portion of the APE has experienced (and continues to experience) frequent high-volume flooding. In the southeastern portion of the APE, lithic bedrock is shallow and/or exposed on the surface, eliminating the possibility of deep, intact cultural deposits. Recent flooding prevented further trenching north of Culebra Creek, but because subsurface impacts of the proposed paths is less than 1 ft in depth and because the geographic setting is largely similar on the north side of Culebra Creek, shovel testing was adequate to explore for archeological sites.

Site 41BX1863 is a newly documented sparse surface scatter of non-diagnostic chert artifacts located along a T1 terrace north of Culebra Creek in the northeastern portion of the APE. This site contains no subsurface artifacts and is thought to possibly be the transported remains of a previously destroyed site or sites north of the project area. Because there is no apparent stratigraphy or intact aspect of the site, EComm concludes that there is little or no potential for future research for site 41BX1863.

The intensive archeological survey was conducted in compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas and adhered to the guidelines set forth in 36 CFR Part 800 and 13 TAC 26. Work was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit 5590. It is the opinion of the Principal Investigator that no archeological properties eligible for listing as a State Archeological Landmark will be directly affected by the proposed park improvements.

No artifacts were collected; field records will be curated at EComm in Austin; site records and photographs will be transferred to TARL for permanent curation.

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APPENDIX A

STATE OF TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL
SITE FORM AND SITE MAP

Sensitive Information—Restricted Access Only

STATE OF TEXAS
Archeological Data Site Form
Trinomial 41BX1863

GENERAL SITE INFORMATION

Site Name:
Form Date: 04/23/2010 **Site ID:** SA1
Site Type: unknown prehistoric
Explanation of Type: Surface non-diagnostic lithic scatter

Revisit: False
Local ID: SA1

PROJECT AND PERMIT

Project Name: Culebra Creek Park Improvements
Project Number: 139-011
Project Funding: City of San Antonio
Permitting Source: Texas Historical Commission

Permit Number: 5590

RECORDER INFORMATION

Recorder: Joel Butler
4009 Banister Ln Suite 300
Austin, TX 78704
Phone: 512-329-0031 **Fax:** 512-329-0012
Email: jbutler@ecommcorporation.com

Recorder Visited Site: True

Recorder Affiliation: EComm

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Owner: City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation

Informant:

Additional Source: Kay Hindes, City Archeologist, City of San Antonio

WORK PERFORMED

ACTION DATES AND METHODS

Observe/Record Date: April 20 and 21, 2010
Surface Inspect/Collect Dates: April 20 and 21, 2010
 Method: Surface inspection, shovel testing
Mapping Dates: April 20 and 21, 2010
 Method: GPS, GIS
Testing Dates: NA
 Method:
Excavation Dates: NA
 Method:

RECORDS AND MATERIALS

Records: aeriels, shovel test records
Materials Collected:
 none
Special Samples:
 none
Temporary Housing: none
Permanent Housing: NA

LOCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

04/27/2010

Page 1

STATE OF TEXAS
Archeological Data Site Form
Trinomial 41BX1863

Primary County: Bexar

Site Location in County:

Other County:

USGS MAP Name & Quad #: Culebra Hill (2998-243), Helotes (2998-312)

UTM Zone: 14 **Easting:** 528362 **Northing:** 3263425 **UTM Range:** NAD 83

Latitude: ° ' " **Longitude:** ° ' "

Elevation: 860 **Elevation Range:** 10'

Description of Location:

On T1 terrace 40 meters north of Culbra Creek within Culebra Creek Park

ENVIRONMENT

Nearest Natural Water: Culebra Creek

Major Creek Drainage: Culebra Creek

Name of Drainage Basin: San Antonio River

SCS Soil Series, Mapping Unit:

Patrick Soils

Soil Genetic Type: alluvial / pluvial gravels and silt, not derived in situ

Percentage Ground Surface Visible: 30-90

Surface Texture: silty clay

Soil Derivation: In Situ: False Marine: False Eolian: False Colluvial: True Alluvial: True

Other Soils:

Environmental/Topographical Setting:

Site is located on a T1 terrace (2 m high) north of Culebra Creek and minor tributary. Site is frequently flooded. Site may be transported remnants of a site (or sites) upslope destroyed by previous construction.

CULTURAL MANIFESTATIONS

Time Period of Occupation:

Unknown

Basis for Time: no diagnostic artifacts

Single Component: False

Multiple Component: False

Component Unknown: True

Basis for Component: all surface scatter, no stratigraphy for basis

Cultural Features:

none

Approximate Site Size: 25 x 125 meters (.88 acres)

Basis for Determination: survey / GIS

Top of Deposit Below Surface: 0 cm

Basis for Determination: shovel testing

Thickness of Deposit: 0 cm

Basis for Determination: shovel testing / surface inspection

Artifactual Materials Present:

chert flakes (cortical and tertiary), cores and core fragments

Discussion of Site:

Site is located on a 1.5 to 2 meter high T1 terrace above Culebra Creek and a minor tributary. Kay Hinder of the City of San Antonio had prior knowledge of the site's location though it had not been documented to the surveyor's knowledge. Site consists of a surface scatter of non-diagnostic chert artifacts. Erosional surfaces on the terrace and down its face showed no artifacts or burned rock. Artifacts are considered to have been transported downslope from a site or sites which have been previously destroyed by construction of an apartment complex. Six shovel tests were excavated within the site; all were negative, reaching depths to 80 cmbs. Dogleash inventories revealed that surface density is sparse, with concentrations around one artifact per 57 square meters.

SITE CONDITIONS

STATE OF TEXAS Archeological Data Site Form <i>Trinomial 41BX1863</i>
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Circumstances Affecting Observations:

none

Site Condition: unknown, surface artifacts only

Current Land Use:

Park

Natural Impacts:

erosional / depoision from apartments and overbank floods of Culebra Creek

Artificial Impacts:

Increased runoff from apartments parking lots

Future Impacts:

walking path construction within Culebra Creek Park

DISCUSSION OF SITE

REGISTRATION STATUS

State Arch Landmark:

National Register:

Reg TX Landmark:

Conservation Easement:

Registration Comments:

Research Value:

very little

Further Investigations:

none recommended

Attachments:

map of site on topographic sheets



IMAGE REDACTED

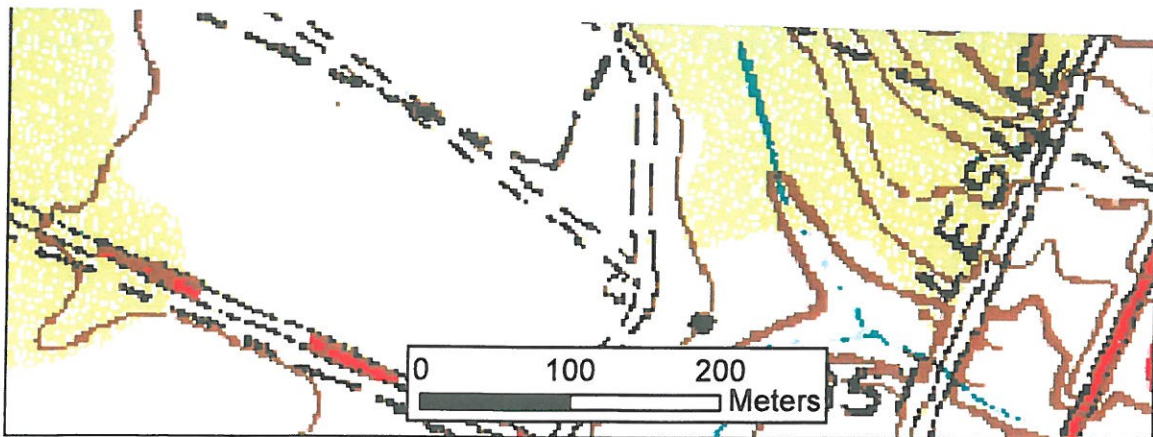


Figure A-1. Location of 41BX1863 on the Culebra Hill and Helotes USGS topographic quadrangle.